



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,089	10/31/2003	Ankur Bhatt	13906-119001 / 2003P00394	9708
32864	7590	08/16/2006	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			DEBROW, JAMES J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/698,089

Applicant(s)

BHATT ET AL.

Examiner

James J. Debrow

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/18/05; 4/3/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed on 5/16/2006.
2. Claims 1-18 are pending in the case. Claims 1, and 10, are independent claims.

***Applicant's Response***

3. In Applicant's response dated 5/16/2006, Applicant amended Claims 1 and 10. Applicant also argued against rejections previously set forth in previous Office Action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. **Claims 1, 4-6, 10, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jamshidi et al. (Pat. No.: US 6,631,497; Filed Jul. 19, 1999) (hereinafter 'Jamshidi').**

**In regards to independent claim 1, Jamshidi discloses *a method of generating an electronic report from a list view displaying data objects that each comprise a plurality of fields and corresponding attributes for the fields, the method comprising:***

***receiving a user selection of at least one object field of the displayed fields (col. 7, lines 20-30; col. 9, lines 6-8; Fig. 3; Fig. 4; Jamshidi discloses a user interface that allows the user can select a specific object displayed to him from a list, which is to be included in the spreadsheet/report.).***

***generating an output file that an external reporting application can use to generate a tabulated report, the tabulated report to include the attributes corresponding to the selected at least one object field (col. 1, lines 34-45; col. 7, lines 33-61; Jamshidi***

Art Unit: 2176

discloses a data from a database can be imported into a spreadsheet by reading a file of the database that is stored with the data and importing it to the spreadsheet.

Jamshidi further discloses a spreadsheet worksheet, which contains all binding information is extracted from to produce the tabulated report.).

*launching the external reporting application and generating the tabulated report using the launched external reporting application, the tabulated report comprising, the attributes corresponding to the selected at least one object field (col. 6, lines 49-55; Fig. 3; Fig. 4; Jamshidi discloses a user interface which is seamlessly integrated with an exemplary spreadsheet, which in this case is Microsoft Corp's Excel Spreadsheet.).*

**In regards to dependent claim 4,** Jamshidi discloses *the method of claim 1 further comprising displaying a view of the list view and wherein the tabulated report is triggered from the view of the list view (col. 8, lines 3-25; Jamshidi discloses the wizard displays a list of objects in which the user selects specific objects in which to invoke the binding method.).*

**In regards to dependent claim 5,** Jamshidi discloses *the method of claim 4 wherein the data objects for the list view are retrieved from a database according to a search feature prior to displaying the view of the list view (col. 7, line 33-col. 8, lines 3-25; Fig. 5; Jamshidi discloses the wizard displays a list of objects in which the user selects specific objects in which to invoke the binding method. Jamshidi also discloses the selected objects will be included in the type of SQL statement to be generated.).*

**In regards to dependent claim 6,** Jamshidi discloses *the method of claim 1 wherein the output file includes the selected at least one object field and the corresponding attributes* (col. 7, lines 33-40; Jamshidi discloses the worksheet/file contains a path to the selected object and it's corresponding attributes.).

**In regards to independent claim 10,** Jamshidi discloses *a computer-readable medium with program instructions stored thereon that when executed perform the following functions to generate an electronic report from a computer user interface list view displaying data objects that each comprise fields and corresponding attributes for the fields* (col. 8, lines 3-25; col. 8, lines 51-60; Jamshidi discloses the system can be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, where the storage medium causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner.):

*receives a user selection of at least one object field of the displayed object fields* (col. 7, lines 20-30; col. 9, lines 6-8; Fig. 3; Fig. 4; Jamshidi discloses a user interface that allows the user can select a specific object displayed to him from a list, which is to be included in the spreadsheet/report.).

*generates an output file that an external reporting application can use to generate a tabulated report, the tabulated report to include the attributes corresponding to the selected at least one object field* (col. 1, lines 34-45; col. 7, lines 33-61; Jamshidi discloses a data from a database can be imported into a spreadsheet by reading a file of the database that is store4d with the data and importing it to the spreadsheet.

Jamshidi further discloses a spreadsheet worksheet, which contains all binding information is extracted from to produce the tabulated report.).

*launches the external reporting application and generates the tabulated report using the launched external reporting application, the tabulated report comprising, the attributes corresponding to the selected at least one object field (col. 6, lines 49-55; Fig. 3; Fig. 4; Jamshidi discloses a user interface which is seamlessly integrated with an exemplary spreadsheet, which in this case is Microsoft Corp's Excel Spreadsheet.).*

**In regards to dependent claim 13,** Jamshidi discloses *the computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein: the program instructions when executed further performs the function of displaying a view of the list view; and the tabulated report is triggered from the view of the list view (col. 8, lines 3-25; col. 8, lines 51-60; Jamshidi discloses the system can be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, where the storage medium causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner. Jamshidi discloses the wizard displays a list of objects in which the user selects specific objects in which to invoke the binding method.).*

**In regards to dependent claim 14,** Jamshidi discloses *the computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the data objects for the list view are retrieved from a database according to a search feature prior to displaying the view of the list view (col. 7, line 33-col. 8, lines 3-25; col. 8, lines 51-60; Fig. 5; Jamshidi discloses the system can be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, where the storage*

medium causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner. Jamshidi discloses the wizard displays a list of objects in which the user selects specific objects in which to invoke the binding method. Jamshidi also discloses the selected objects will be included in the type of SQL statement to be generated.).

**In regards to dependent claim 15,** Jamshidi discloses *the computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the output file includes the selected at least one object field and the corresponding attributes* (col. 7, lines 33-40; col. 8, lines 51-60; Jamshidi discloses the system can be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, where the storage medium causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner. Jamshidi discloses the worksheet/file contains a path to the selected object and it's corresponding attributes.).



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 2, 9, 11, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamshidi et al. (Pat. No.: US 6,631,497; Filed Jul. 19, 1999) (hereinafter 'Jamshidi') in view of Grasso et al. (Pat. No.: 5,892,909; Filed Jan. 31, 1997) (hereinafter 'Grasso').**

**In regards to dependent claim 2, Jamshidi does not expressly disclose *the method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a user selection of the external reporting application.***

However, Grasso teaches *the method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a user selection of the external reporting application* (col. 15, lines 49-61; Grasso teaches the user identifies the application used to create the content of the distribution (*report*)).

Therefore at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Jamshidi with Grasso for the benefit of each application being mapped to one or more formats that will be contained in the distribution (*report*) (col. 15, lines 55-56).

**In regards to dependent claim 9,** Jamshidi does not expressly disclose *the method of claim 1 wherein the launched external reporting application generates the tabulated report.*

However, Grasso teaches *the method of claim 1 wherein the launched external reporting application generates the tabulated report* (col. 15, lines 49-61; Grasso teaches the user identifies the application used to create the content of the distribution (*report*). After the primary application (*external reporting application*) is chosen, the system automatically makes available other native formats for a particular application. In an exemplary embodiment, MS-Word, MS-Power-point, and MS-Excel are supported. It has been established and it well known in the art that MS-Excel typically generates tabulated report.).

Therefore at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Jamshidi with Grasso for the benefit of each application being mapped to one or more formats that will be contained in the distribution (*report*) (col. 15, lines 55-56).

**In regards to dependent claim 11,** Jamshidi discloses the system can be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, where the storage medium causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner (col. 8, lines 51-60).

Jamshidi does not expressly disclose *the computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the program instructions when executed further performs the function of receiving a user selection of the external reporting application.*

However, Grasso teaches *the function of receiving a user selection of the external reporting application* (col. 15, lines 49-61; Grasso teaches the user identifies the application used to create the content of the distribution (*report*)).

Therefore at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Jamshidi with Grasso for the benefit of each application being mapped to one or more formats that will be contained in the distribution (*report*) (col. 15, lines 55-56).

**In regards to dependent claim 18**, Jamshidi discloses the system can be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, where the storage medium causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner (col. 8, lines 51-60).

Jamshidi does not expressly disclose *the computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the launched external reporting application generates the tabulated report*.

However, Grasso teaches *the method of claim 10 wherein the launched external reporting application generates the tabulated report* (col. 15, lines 49-61; Grasso teaches the user identifies the application used to create the content of the distribution (*report*). After the primary application (*external reporting application*) is chosen, the system automatically makes available other native formats for a particular application. In an exemplary embodiment, MS-Word, MS-Power-point, and MS-Excel are supported. It has been established and it well known in the art that MS-Excel typically generates tabulated report.).

Therefore at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Jamshidi with Grasso for the benefit of each application being mapped to one or more formats that will be contained in the distribution (*report*) (col. 15, lines 55-56).

**8. Claims 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamshidi et al. (Pat. No.: US 6,631,497; Filed Jul. 19, 1999) (hereinafter 'Jamshidi') in view of Grasso et al. (Pat. No.: 5,892,909; Filed Jan. 31, 1997) (hereinafter 'Grasso') further in view of Evans et al. (Pub. No.: US 2004/0019560 A1; Filed Dec. 23, 2002) (hereinafter 'Evans').**

**In regards to dependent claim 3,** Jamshidi in view of Grasso does not expressly disclose *the method of claim 2 wherein the user selection of the external reporting application is selected from the group consisting of Microsoft.RTM. Excel and HTML.*

However, Evans teaches *the method of claim 2 wherein the user selection of the external reporting application is selected from the group consisting of Microsoft.RTM. Excel and HTML* (0158; Evans teaches customized reports can be created using applications such as Microsoft.RTM. Excel and HTML).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the combine Jamshidi in view of Grasso with Evans for the benefit of gathering and manipulating data to create highly customized reports (0158).

**In regards to dependent claim 12**, Jamshidi in view of Grasso discloses the system can be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, where the storage medium causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner (col. 8, lines 51-60).

Jamshidi does not expressly disclose *the computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the user selection of the external reporting application is selected from the group consisting of Microsoft.RTM. Excel and HTML.*

However, Evans teaches *of claim 11 wherein the user selection of the external reporting application is selected from the group consisting of Microsoft.RTM. Excel and HTML* (0158; Evans teaches customized reports can be created using applications such as Microsoft.RTM. Excel and HTML).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the combine Jamshidi in view of Grasso with Evans for the benefit of gathering and manipulating data to create highly customized reports (0158).

Art Unit: 2176

9. **Claims 7 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamshidi et al. (Pat. No.: US 6,631,497; Filed Jul. 19, 1999) (hereinafter 'Jamshidi') in view of Evans et al. (Pub. No.: US 2004/0019560 A1; Filed Dec. 23, 2002) (hereinafter 'Evans').**

**In regards to dependent claim 7**, Jamshidi does not expressly disclose *the method of claim 1 wherein the output file is an ActiveX Data Object Recordset*.

However, Evans teaches *the method of claim 1 wherein the output file is an ActiveX Data Object Recordset* (0047; 0117-0119; 0159; Evans teaches ActiveX is supported mainly by Microsoft Internet Explorer, which is capable of opening pages/files/reports containing ActiveX to upload files on a server.).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the combine Jamshidi with Evans for the benefit of gathering and manipulating data to create highly customized reports (0158).

**In regards to dependent claim 16**, Jamshidi discloses the system can be implemented as a computer-readable storage medium, where the storage medium causes a computer to operate in a specific and predefined manner (col. 8, lines 51-60).

Jamshidi does not expressly disclose *the computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the output file is an ActiveX Data Object Recordset*.

However, Evans teaches *of claim 10 wherein the output file is an ActiveX Data Object Recordset* (0047; 0117-0119; 0159; Evans teaches ActiveX is supported mainly

Art Unit: 2176

by Microsoft Internet Explorer, which is capable of opening pages/files/reports containing ActiveX to upload files on a server.).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Jamshidi with Evans for the benefit of gathering and manipulating data to create highly customized reports (0158).

**10. Claims 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamshidi et al. (Pat. No.: US 6,631,497; Filed Jul. 19, 1999) (hereinafter 'Jamshidi') in view of Bowman-Amuah (Patent No.: 6,615,253 B1; Filing Date: August 31, 1999).**

*In regards to dependent claim 8, Jamshidi does not expressly disclose the method of claim 1 wherein generating the output file that the external reporting application can use to generate the tabulated report further comprises transferring the output file to a reporting-tool-specific interface component capable of plug-and-play interaction with the external reporting application.*

However, Bowman-Amuah teaches *the method of claim 1 wherein generating the output file that the external reporting application can use to generate the tabulated report further comprises transferring the output file to a reporting-tool-specific interface component capable of plug-and-play interaction with the external reporting application* (column 43, lines 52-56; Bowman-Amuah teaches a plug-in (*plug-and-play*) is a software program that is specifically written to be executed within a browser for the

Art Unit: 2176

purpose of providing additional functionality that is not natively supported by the browser (external reporting applications), such as viewing and playing unique data (tabulated report) or media types.).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the combine Jamshidi with Bowman-Amuah for the benefit of efficiently retrieving data (col. 1, lines 21-22).

**In regards to dependent claim 17**, Jamshidi does not expressly disclose *the computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein generating the output file that the external reporting application can use to generate the tabulated report further comprises transferring the output file to a reporting-tool-specific interface component capable of plug-and-play interaction with the external reporting application.*

However, Bowman-Amuah teaches disclose *the computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein generating the output file that the external reporting application can use to generate the tabulated report further comprises transferring the output file to a reporting-tool-specific interface component capable of plug-and-play interaction with the external reporting application (column 43, lines 52-56; column 309, lines 48-51;* Bowman-Amuah teaches a plug-in (*plug-and-play*) is a software program that is specifically written to be executed within a browser for the purpose of providing additional functionality that is not natively supported by the browser (external reporting applications), such as viewing and playing unique data (tabulated report) or media types. Bowman-Amuah further discloses a computer program containing code



Art Unit: 2176

segments, which when executed on a computer performs efficient data retrieval, the computer program being embodied on a computer readable medium.).

Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the combine Jamshidi with Bowman-Amuah for the benefit of efficiently retrieving data (col. 1, lines 21-22).

### ***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 5/16/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Jamshidi, Grasso, Evans and Bowman-Amuah.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James J. Debrow whose telephone number is 571-272-5768. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JAMES DEBROW  
EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2176



DOUG HUTTON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECH CENTER 2100